

RE: Inclement Weather Plan

Each year, Republic Services prepares for major winter storm events that may delay or disrupt service. Our priority will be garbage collection (essential services first, such as hospitals, then residential and commercial), followed by recycling and yard waste.

Preparation

We have outfitted our trucks with properly fitted chains and trained our drivers on their use.

Our natural gas trucks actually have better fuel capacity in the colder weather.

Day of event

We will monitor the weather closely, and if snow or frozen rain is predicted, our supervisors will test-run the routes beginning at 1 a.m. At 3 a.m. we will make an initial go/no-go decision.

Initial go decision

Our managers will update our employee call-in line to indicate that routes will be run. Drivers – most of whom own personal four-wheel drive vehicles and take great pride in covering their routes – will come to the yard and prep their trucks for the day's collection. We will contact the City by 5:30 a.m. with our initial decision.

Final go/no-go decision

Once the trucks are on the road we will continue to analyze road conditions for everyone's safety, and we will make the final go/no-go decision at 6:30 a.m. Please know that the entire route – from our yard and throughout your city and to the transfer station and/or landfill– will be included in the safety determination.

Go decision

There may be some delays and even some impassible areas, but we anticipate that a go decision means that we will cover most routes that day. Each driver who has a concern about the safety of a route will consult with a supervisor about which neighborhood streets are safe

to travel. The supervisor will determine go/no-go for each route.

No-go decision

In the event of a no-go decision, we will send you (and/or your designee) an email with the news. (You should have already received a test email; if you have not, please let us know and we will work with you to ensure you're on the distribution list.) We will also update our website and our phone message at customer service. Announcements will be sent to local news outlets. For those homes and business we were not able to collect, we will accept "doubles" the next collection day.

Prolonged weather event

If the region experiences a prolonged weather event, we will discuss options with you, including a staffed centralized garbage collection site as soon as possible after the roads are passable. We envision roll-off boxes, trucks and helpers for residents who can bring their garbage to us. If limited travel is possible during the prolonged event, the collection site could be established as soon as a location is identified, cleared by your team and our equipment and personnel placed. We could work together to notify residents of the opportunity.

Centralized garbage collection sites – where neighbor helps neighbor – can turn frustration into community building opportunities. We will do our part to make the event run smoothly. We have found that a little hot chocolate goes a long way!

Please give Russell Joe a call if you have any questions or comments. We want this winter to run smoothly – with or without the snow.

Russell Joe, Municipal Relationship Manager

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